

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (Currently Amended) An anionic surfactant particle for use in a laundry detergent composition, the particle having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 95 wt% and ~~comprising~~ consisting of linear alkylbenzene sulphonate (LAS) and primary alcohol sulphate (PAS) in a weight ratio of from 5:1 to 1:3, sodium carbonate, and water.

Claim 2: (Original) An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 98 wt%.

Claim 3: (Previously Presented) An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of LAS to PAS is within the range of from 3:1 to 1:2.

Claim 4: (Cancelled)

Claim 5: (Original) An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the PAS has an average alkyl chain length within the range of from C₁₀ to C₁₆, preferably from C₁₂ to C₁₄.

Claim 6: (Original) An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anionic surfactants are in sodium salt form.

Claim 7: (Original) An anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, which is the form of a flake.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of an anionic surfactant particle for use in a laundry detergent composition, the particle having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 95 wt% and comprising linear alkylbenzene sulphonate (LAS) and primary alcohol sulphate (PAS) in a weight ratio of from 5:1 to 1:3 as claimed in claim 1, which process comprises the steps of

- (i) reacting LAS acid with sodium carbonate to form sodium LAS and water,
- (ii) admixing PAS in any suitable form,
- (iii) drying the resulting mixture to a solid form, and
- (iv) comminuting to form particles.

Claim 9: (Original) A particulate detergent composition comprising an anionic surfactant particle as claimed in claim 1, in admixture or conjunction with one or more other solid detergent ingredients.

Claim 10: (Currently Amended) A particulate detergent composition as claimed in ~~claim 10~~^{claim 9}, which comprises

- (a) a base powder composed of composite granules comprising surfactant and builder,
- (b) anionic surfactant particles as claimed in claim 1,
- (c) optionally postdosed detergent ingredients.

Claim 11: (Original) A particulate detergent composition as claimed in claim 10, having a total anionic surfactant content of at least 20 wt%.